

February 12, 1976

The rate of inflation, last year, was 8 percent. So this is basically a cost of living increase and no more.

My information I have is that the Appropriations Committee has yet to arrive at a final figure on employees salaries. They're talking about increases in the area of 5 percent. The Governor brought in a bill. In his bill he called for employee increases of 5½ percent.

I would ask for adoption of the amendment. Then I'll talk further on the bill.

PRESIDENT: Any further discussion? Senator Marvel.

SENATOR MARVEL: I would like to have some information on the fiscal impact of this. Senator Fowler, do you have any information on what the cost is for your amendment? His mic isn't working.

SENATOR FOWLER: OK. The information that I have indicates that the ... for every percentage increase in state employees salaries, that it is about a \$1.6 million increase in the state budget. So this bill, an 8½ percent increase, ... the total fiscal impact would be about \$12 to \$15 million ... \$12 to \$13 million.

SENATOR MARVEL: If I could ask, is this the total impact of the bill, or is this just the impact of the amendment?

SENATOR FOWLER: Well the amendment would become the bill. The amendment would substitute new language as far as the increase, so that would be the impact.

SENATOR MARVEL: Thank you.

SENATOR FOWLER: Without the amendment the bill ... the language is ... well useless really because it's out of date. The bill is a year old. This is an attempt to update the language.

PRESIDENT: Any further discussion? Any concluding remarks, Senator?

SENATOR FOWLER: I would just emphasize that I ask you to vote for this amendment to put the bill in a shape that we can discuss it. I understand that a vote for an amendment is not necessarily a commitment to the concept of the bill. It's necessary that, since this bill has been held over a year, that we change some of the dates and change some of the language. I'd ask you to vote for the amendment.

PRESIDENT: The question is shall Senator Fowler's amendment be adopted. Record your vote. Please vote. Record.

CLERK: 28 ayes, 0 nays, 21 not voting.

PRESIDENT: The amendment is adopted. Senator Fowler.